THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS

SUPERMAN'S ACTION COMICS

30¢ NO. 466 DEC. 30410

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

I TURNED BATMAN AND FLASH INTO KIDS-- AND KILLED THEM!

YOU'RE NEXT, SUPERMAN!

12 0 70989 30410

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NEAL ADAMS

BAT MAN

"THE MUSE"

"THE MUSE" HAS BEEN THE ACCOMPANIST AT 3 ROCK CONCERTS WHERE THE FEATURED SOLO ROCK STARS HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED.

SUCH HEAVENLY MUSIC... NO ONE ON EARTH HAS EVER HEARD *THIS* KIND OF MUSIC BEFORE...

THE THREE BOTTLES ROCK SINGING GROUP ACCOMPANIED by "THE MUSE" ON HIS MUSICAL SYNTHESIZER

EERIE ... ROBIN... BUT THIS MUSIC ALMOST SOUNDS HUMAN.

HOLY DO RE ME... DO YOU THINK...

THAT THE MUSE IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ROCK SINGERS RICH JAGGARD, JIM COLORADO AND ELFISH HIPSLEY?

...PRECISELY!

NO ONE KNOWS (BUT ME) THAT MY SYNTHESIZER TRANSFORMS PEOPLE INTO MUSICAL NOTES... SO I CAN HAVE THE BEST MUSIC... I GET THE BEST PEOPLE.

MUSE, YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD. TAKE A BREAK.

THERE'S NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN MAKING MY OWN MUSIC FROM SCRATCH...

...EXCEPT EATING *DELICIOUS HOSTESS® CUP CAKES.*

...WITH *CREAMED FILLING.*

THE *CHOCOLATE FLAVOR* AND THE *FUDGY ICING* MAKE ME FEEL LIKE SINGING...

...AND HERE'S ANOTHER BREAK FOR YOU.

AN UNLUCKY BREAK FOR ME. A LUCKY BREAK FOR THEM.

HOLY ALLEGRO, BATMAN, WE HAVE A STAGE FULL OF WIGGLING TALENT.

AND WE ALL SING THE PRAISES OF THE ***HOSTESS CUP CAKES WITH THE WHITE WIGGLES AND SQUIGGLES ON TOP.***

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF ***HOSTESS® CUP CAKES***

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IT'S 11:55 IN THE MORNING...THE NOONTIME LUNCH CROWD HAS STARTED TO STREAM INTO THE *CAFE MOCHA*-- WHEN THEY SEE A *CRASHING BLUR* THAT APPEARS TO BE

SUPERMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

CRASSHHH!

CAFE MOCHA

WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS *THAT*-- *A METEOR--?*

NO--IT'S *ALIVE*... AND IT LOOKS LIKE--

--SUPERMAN!

BAD AS IT APPEARS FOR THE *MAN OF STEEL* NOW, READER--IT'S GOING TO GET *FAR WORSE*! FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO SAY

"YOU CAN TAKE THE MAN OUT OF THE SUPER, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE SUPER OUT OF THE BOY!"

STORY: CARY BATES

ART: CURT SWAN & TEX BLAISDELL

EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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LOOK AGAIN! HE'S NOT *BIG* ENOUGH TO BE *SUPERMAN!*

YES, HE'S *SMALLER*-- JUST A *BOY*--

--A *SUPERBOY!*

BUT *SUPERMAN* HASN'T BEEN *SUPERBOY* FOR *YEARS!* HE *CAN'T* GROW *YOUNGER!*

OH, YES, HE CAN! I HEARD A YOUNG *BATBOY* WAS SPOTTED IN *GOTHAM CITY!*

AND A *TEENAGE FLASH* HAS BEEN *SUPER-SPEEDING* AROUND *CENTRAL CITY!*

WELL, THEN, IF THAT REALLY IS THE *MAN OF STEEL*, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE--

LEX LUTHOR--! THAT'S WHO!

OKAY, *LUTHOR*-- I'VE TAKEN YOUR *BEST PUNCH!* NOW IT'S *MY* TURN... AND I WARN YOU--

--I'M GOOD AND *MAD!*

YOU MAY BE *MAD, SUPERKID*... BUT SO FAR *YOUR* FIGHTING HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT *GOOD!*

OWW

IF YOU HAD THOUGHT TO EXAMINE MY *POWER-GLOVE* WITH YOUR *X-RAY VISION*--

--YOU WOULD'VE SPOTTED ITS *ENERGY-RECEPTORS* ABSORBING *YOUR STRENGTH* AND BEING TURNED AGAINST YOU!

UHH!

HE'S GOT MY FIST IN A *CRUSHING GRIP!*

NOT USED TO *PAIN...!*

A *SUPERMAN* WOULD *NEVER* HAVE MADE SUCH AN *OVERSIGHT*--

--BUT AN INEXPERIENCED *SUPERBOY* DOESN'T *KNOW* ANY BETTER!

WHICH IS WHY, MY YOUNG FOE, YOU'RE *NO MATCH* FOR ME ANYMORE!

BUT IF YOU THINK-- AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF SUFFERING HUMILIATING *DEFEATS* AT YOUR HANDS--

--I'M GOING TO PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR *MISERY* THIS *MERCIFULLY*--

--YOU'RE JUST A *DUMB, DUMB KID!*

CHA

YOU'VE ONLY JUST *BEGUN* TO *SUFFER*-- AND I'M GOING TO ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF THIS BATTLE TO *YOUR DEATH!*

THEN IT'S *TRUE! LUTHOR* HAS TURNED THE CLOCK BACK ON *SUPERMAN!*

IT'S *UNFAIR!* WHY DOESN'T THAT BALD-HEADED BRUTE PICK ON SOMEONE HIS *OWN SIZE?*

LISTEN, HE'S STILL *SUPER,* RIGHT? SO WHY DOESN'T *SUPERBOY* FIGHT BACK?

MAYBE HE'S *AFRAID!*

OWWW... THOSE *REMARKS* HURT MORE THAN MY *HAND* DOES!

WHAT A HUMILIATING EXPERIENCE! NOW I KNOW HOW *BATMAN* AND *FLASH* MUST'VE FELT!

...WHEREUPON THE *TEEN OF STEEL* LETS HIS MIND DRIFT INTO THE *PAST...*

...BEFORE HE GREW "DOWN" INTO *SUPERBOY*... WHEN HE CROSSED THE PATH OF A *BOY CAPED CRUSADER*...

BATMAN--? YOU...YOU DON'T LOOK A DAY OVER *TEN!*

I'M *NOT*--THANKS TO *LEX LUTHOR* AND HIS SCIENTIFIC GENIUS!

BUT I'M NOT HIS *ONLY* VICTIM--SEE?

THAT *CRIMSON BLUR* WHIPPING AROUND ME--

--THE *FLASH?*

A *TEEN-AGE FLASH*, COURTESY OF YOUR ARCH-FOE, *LUTHOR*--JUST TO PROVE IT CAN BE DONE!

THAT'S RIGHT, *SUPERMAN!* BE ON YOUR GUARD--*YOU'RE* THE ONE *LUTHOR'S REALLY* AFTER!

BATS WAS RIGHT! I SOON FOUND MYSELF AT THE WRONG END OF *LUTHOR'S* MOST DIABOLIC WEAPON--

--AN *AGE-REVERSER* THAT EVEN MY SUPER-POWERS CAN'T PROTECT ME FROM!

ALL THE YEARS OF *PRACTICE* I'VE HAD MASTERING MY POWERS...

...ALL THE *KNOWLEDGE* AND *EXPERIENCE* I'VE ACQUIRED--*GONE!*

LOOK--UP IN THE SKY!

IT'S A *BIRD!*

IT'S A *PLANE!*

NO! IT'S... IT'S...

...*SUPERBOY?!?*

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO *SUPERMAN?*

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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...THAT'S THE QUESTION ALL *METROPOLIS* IS ASKING-- *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN?*

EVEN MORE BAFFLING IS THE QUESTION *WHO* DID IT TO HIM?

A REPORT FROM EYEWITNESSES AT THE *CAFE MOCHA* CLAIMS CRIMINAL SCIENTIST *LEX LUTHOR* IS RESPONSIBLE--

--AND IT NOW SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE SAME PROCESS WAS TESTED ON A GROUP OF *GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS* EMPLOYEES--

--WHO MOMENTARILY REVERTED TO THEIR YOUTHFUL SELVES AT A *GBS* PARTY!*

*DRAMATICALLY PORTRAYED LAST ISSUE! -- JULIE

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT *BATMAN* AND *THE FLASH* HAVE ALSO FALLEN VICTIM TO THIS "FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH" MALADY!

NOT BAD--

FOR THE VACATIONING *CLARK KENT*, THIS IS *STEVE LOMBARD*, WGBS-TV NEWS!

--NOT A BAD JOB OF ANCHORING FOR A LOUD-MOUTHED SPORTSCASTER LIKE *LOMBARD*, EH, LOIS?

I DON'T THINK *HOWARD COSELL* WILL LOSE ANY SLEEP, MR. EDGE!

BUT SPEAKING OF *CLARK*--

--WHEN DID HE DECIDE TO TAKE A "*VACATION*"?

CLARK KENT ON LINE 4, MR. EDGE!

WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT LOIS! IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT *NINNY* CALLED IN!

KENT--WHERE THE BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN? WHY DIDN'T YOU *PHONE*?

I TRIED TO, SIR-- BUT I COULDN'T GET THROUGH! YOU KNOW HOW TIED UP THE CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN LATELY--

SPEAK UP KENT! WHY ARE YOU WHISPERING?

LARYNGITIS, SIR! HOPEFULLY, I'LL HAVE MY VOICE BACK BY TOMORROW!

TOMORROW--? YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF YOU'RE STILL WORK--

CLICK!

KENT, I'M NOT THROUGH TALKING--!

KENT'S GETTING TOO COCKY! IN THE OLD DAYS HE WOULDN'T HAVE DARED HANG UP ON ME!

WE ALL CHANGE, MR. EDGE!

IN THE OLD DAYS, I WOULD'VE SUSPECTED CLARK WAS STAYING OUT OF SIGHT BECAUSE HE WAS SECRETLY SUPERMAN!

BUT NOW I KNOW BETTER!

NOTHING'S WRONG WITH SUSPICIONS, LOIS--ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE CORRECT...

GLAD THAT'S OVER WITH!

I'LL LEAVE THE PHONE OFF THE HOOK SO MORGAN CAN'T CALL ME BACK!

NOW TO STEEL MYSELF FOR A MORE PRESSING PROBLEM--

--HOW TO SURVIVE ANOTHER ATTACK FROM A FOE WHO'S OLDER, WISER AND FAR MORE EXPERIENCED THAN I AM AT MY PRESENT AGE!

I WONDER WHAT LUTHOR'S DOING RIGHT NOW?

LET'S LOCK IN ON THE MASTER CRIMINAL-SCIENTIST AND SEE WHAT *SUPERBOY* CANNOT...

SO MUCH FOR YOUR LATEST *ULTIMATE WEAPON, LUTHOR!*

MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL WAKE UP-- AND REALIZE EVEN YOUR WARPED SCIENTIFIC GENIUS IS NO MATCH FOR A *SUPERMAN!*

ONE DAY I *DID* WAKE UP, *SUPERMAN!*

NOT ONLY DID I *REALIZE* I WAS *NO MATCH* FOR YOU--

--I FINALLY FIGURED OUT *WHY!*

IT IS A PECULIARLY CONTENTED *LEX LUTHOR* WHO HAS BEEN VIEWING *VIDEO-TAPES* OF HIS PAST *DEFEATS* AT THE HANDS OF THE *MAN OF STEEL,* HERE IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS *SECRET LAIR...*

YES, IT FINALLY *DAWNED* ON ME...

...THE *OLDER SUPERMAN* GOT, THE WORSE I WOULD FARE IN OUR BATTLES...

...AS IF I WERE LOSING MY *DRIVE!*

AND THE *TRUTH* IS-- I *WAS!*

IT ALL STEMS FROM THAT FATEFUL DAY IN *SMALLVILLE* YEARS AGO ..

...WHEN I WAS A YOUNG AND HOPEFUL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LIKE OTHER KIDS MY AGE, WITH A FULL HEAD OF *HAIR...*

"...UNTIL *SUPERBOY* LEFT *MY* MIND AND BODY SCARRED FOR *LIFE*--WHEN HE BLEW OUT A *FIRE* IN *MY LAB*..."

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE *DONE*! YOUR *SUPER-BREATH* MIXED MY *CHEMICALS* AND MADE MY *HAIR* FALL OUT!

I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOUR *LIFE*, LEX!

YES, I FINALLY REALIZED THE INTENSE *HATRED* THAT HAS BEEN SPURRING ME ON ALL THESE YEARS WAS DIRECTED AGAINST *SUPERBOY*--

--NOT *SUPERMAN*--

--*SUPERBOY*!!

BUT LET'S SWITCH BRIEFLY TO A *DIFFERENT* METROPOLIS--*GOTHAM CITY*--WHERE THREE BANK ROBBERS FIND THEIR GETAWAY SUDDENLY CUT *SHORT*...

HEYY! *WATCH IT*, YOU CLUMSY!

IT'S NOT *ME*!

WE'VE BEEN *LASSOED*--

--BY A DEFINITELY *SMALLER*-THAN-USUAL *CAPED CRUSADER* WHO TAKES PAINS TO STAY OUT OF *SIGHT*...

...REMAINING ON THE SCENE JUST LONG ENOUGH TO SPOT THE ARRIVAL OF A FAMILIAR FLASHING *RED LIGHT*!...

THE *COPS*! WE'RE DONE FOR!

BUT BEFORE *BATBOY* CAN VANISH "DOWN THE DRAIN"...

BEING WHISKED OUT OF THE MANHOLE AT TERRIFIC SPEED! IT'S EITHER *THE FLASH* OR--

--*SUPERMAN*--ER, *BOY*!

SO *LUTHOR* CUT YOU DOWN TO SIZE, TOO!

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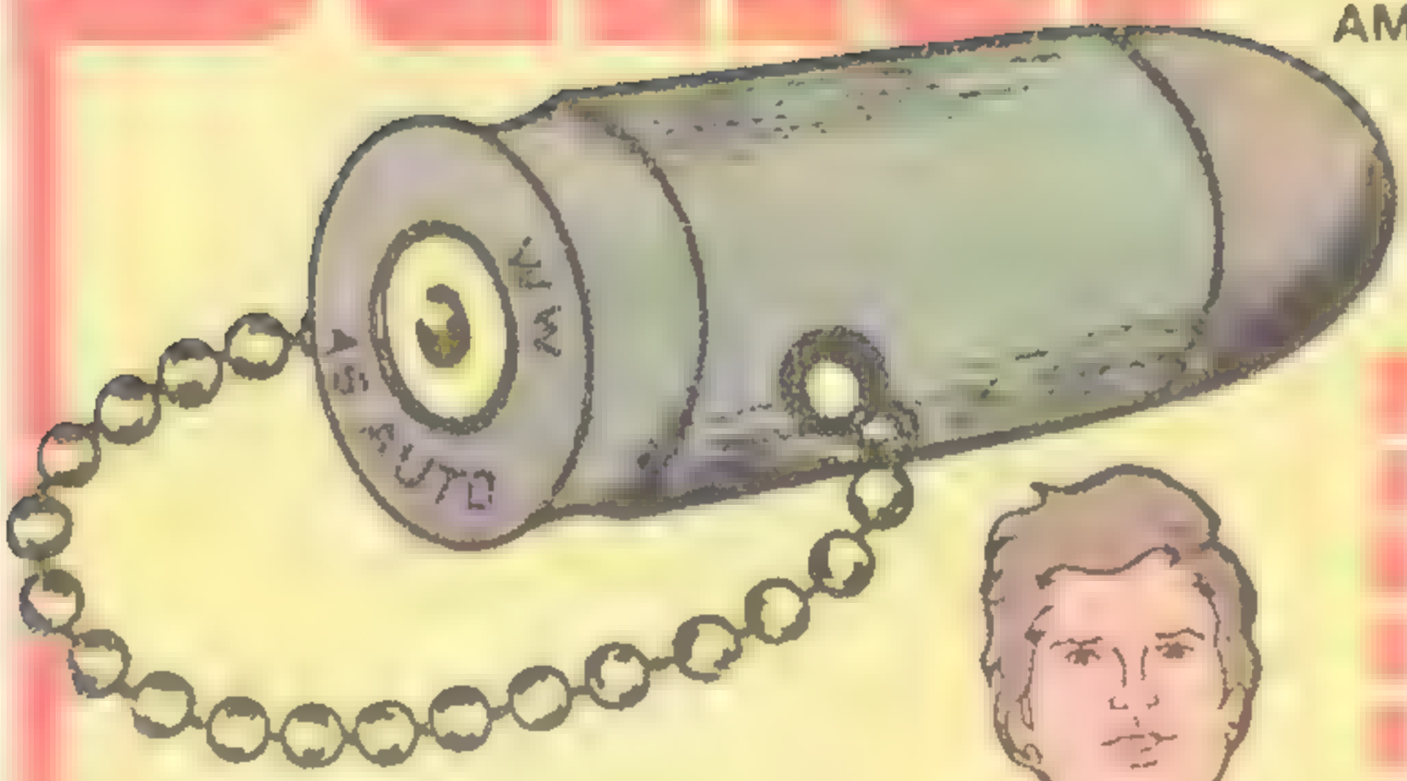

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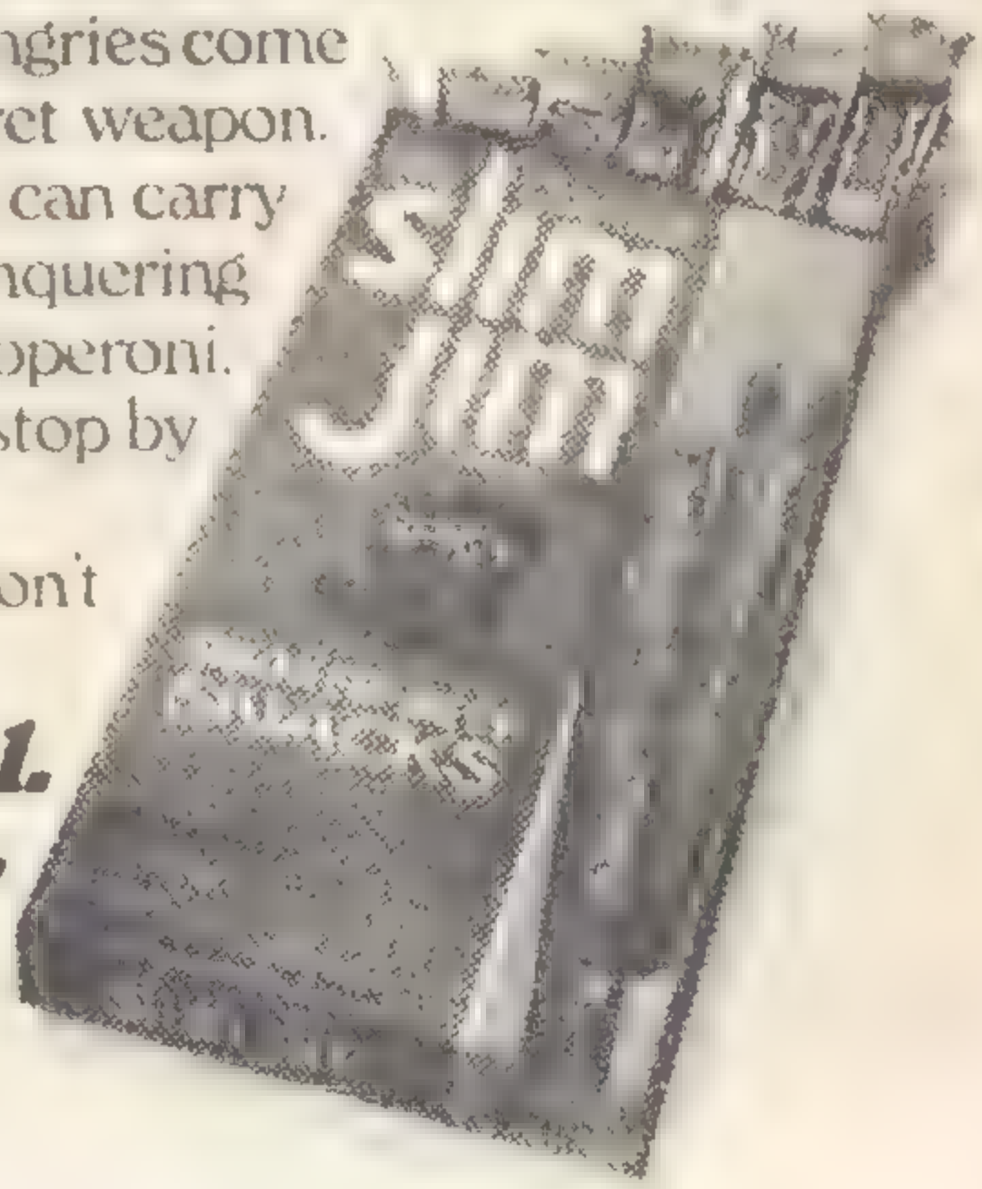

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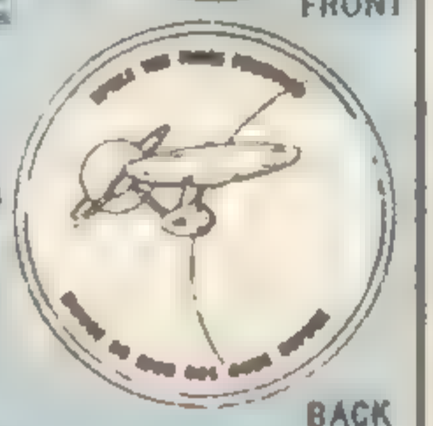

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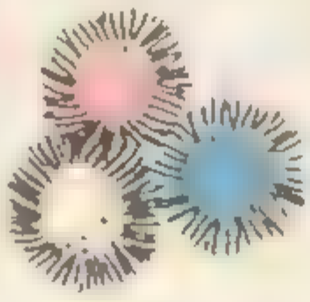

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NOW THAT *SUPERMAN* IS *SUPERBOY* ONCE AGAIN, JUST THE *SIGHT* OF HIM FILLS ME WITH THE SAME INTENSE *HATRED* THAT OBSESSED MY *YOUTH*--

--WHICH GIVES ME *EXTRA-ADVANTAGE NUMBER ONE!*

EXTRA-ADVANTAGE NUMBER TWO: SUPERMAN'S POWERS AND JUDGMENT HAVE *REGRESSED* TO THOSE OF AN *IMMATURE TEENAGER*--

--A *SUPERBOY* FORCED TO DO A *SUPERMAN'S* JOB!

EXTRA-ADVANTAGE NUMBER THREE: THE MOST *DEVASTATING* OF ALL--

--THOUGH IT DEPENDS ON MY FOE DOING EXACTLY WHAT I PREDICT HE'LL DO IN A CRISIS LIKE THIS--

--*CALL FOR HELP!!*

AND AT THAT MOMENT, ON A COUNTRY ROAD OUTSIDE *CENTRAL CITY*...

GONNA CRASH--!

CGRRAASHHHH!

?!? I SHOULD BE *IN THERE... DEAD!*

BUT INSTEAD I'M *OUT HERE, ALIVE!*

HOW--?

HOW WAS THE DRIVER'S LIFE SPARED?

THANKS TO THE FASTER-THAN-THE-EYE-CAN-FOLLOW MOVEMENT OF THE FASTEST TEEN ALIVE...

NICE WORK, FLASH--WHISKING THAT DOOMED DRIVER OUT OF HIS SEAT AT INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED!

HUH? NO ONE ELSE MOVES FAST ENOUGH TO FOCUS ON ME AT THIS VELOCITY--!

NO ONE BUT ME--!

SUPERMAN--?

SUPERBOY! WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE--

--AND WHY I HAD TO TALK TO BOTH OF YOU!

WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SUPES! SINCE WE'RE ALL LIVING SECOND CHILDHOODS BECAUSE OF LUTHOR--

--YOU WANT US TO TEAM UP AGAINST HIM!

YES--IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET BACK TO OUR TRUE AGES!

INDIVIDUALLY, NONE OF US IS A MATCH FOR HIS SCIENTIFIC GENIUS AND CUNNING--

--BUT A THREE-WAY ATTACK JUST MIGHT CATCH LUTHOR OFF-GUARD!

YOU CAN COUNT ON FLASH AND ME NO MATTER WHAT!

RIGHT! LUTHOR MAY HAVE TAKEN A LOT OF YEARS FROM US, BUT NOTHING CAN TAKE AWAY OUR LOYALTY AND FRIENDSHIP!

HEADS UP-- WE'RE GETTING OUR CHANCE TO TEAM UP SOONER THAN WE EXPECTED!

HOW'D LUTHOR FIND US SO FAST--?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WONDER!-- SPREAD OUT!

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING

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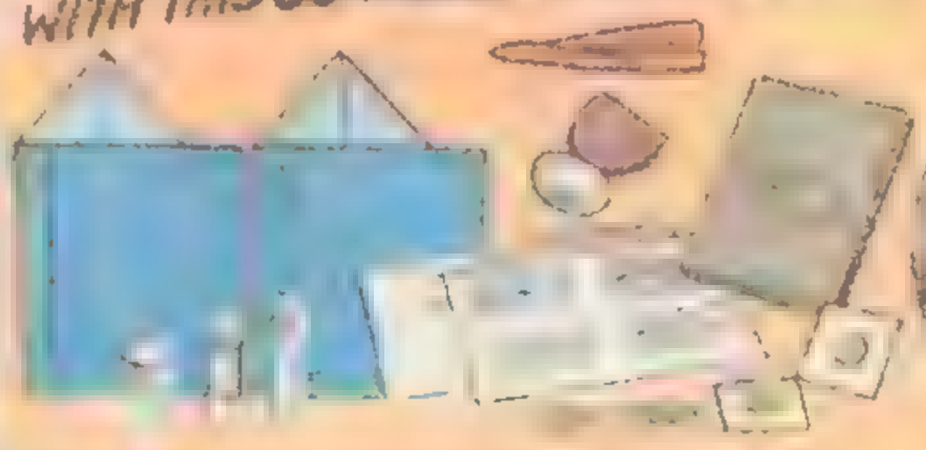

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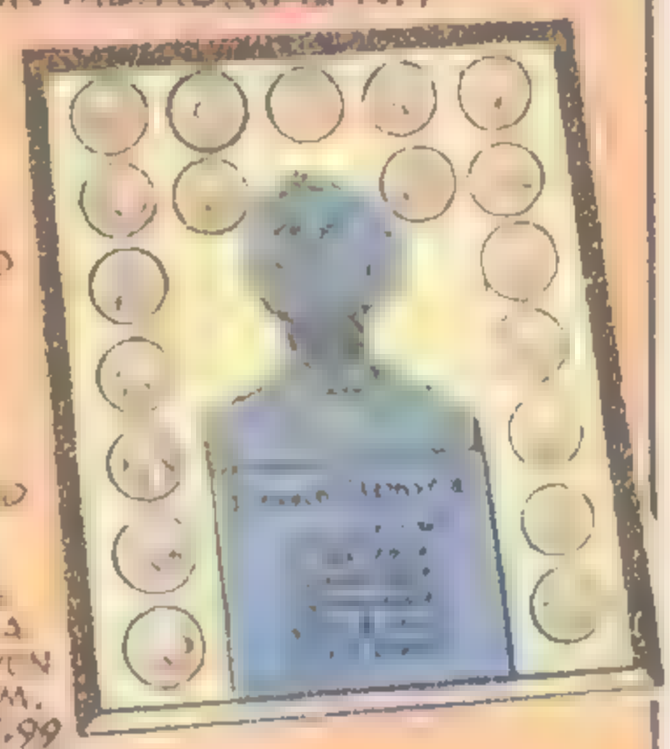

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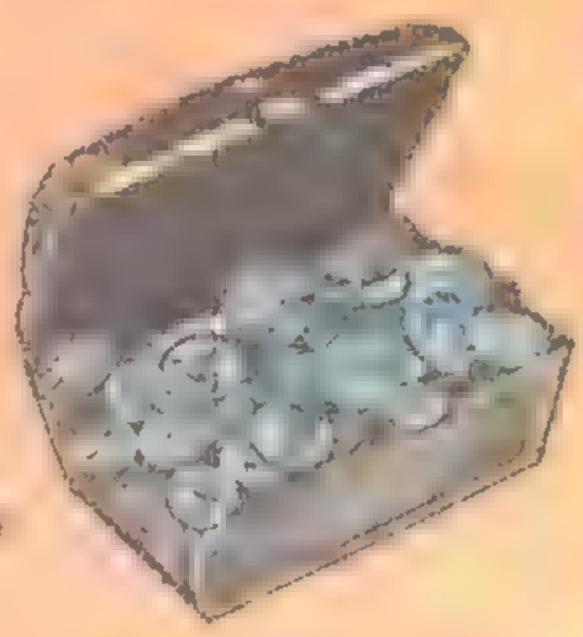

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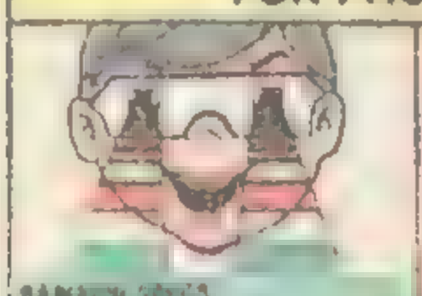

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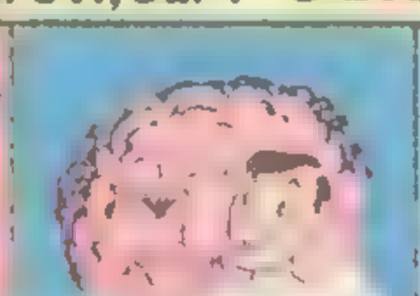

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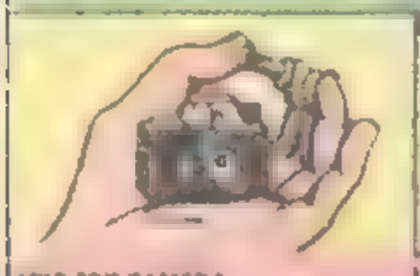

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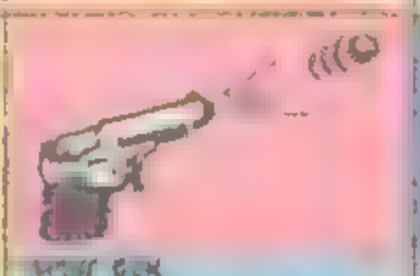

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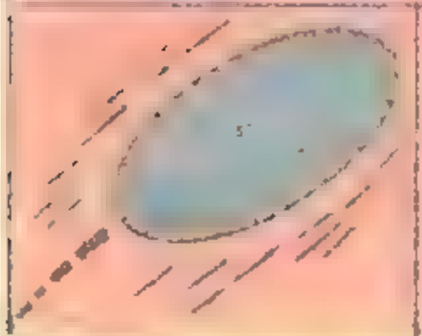

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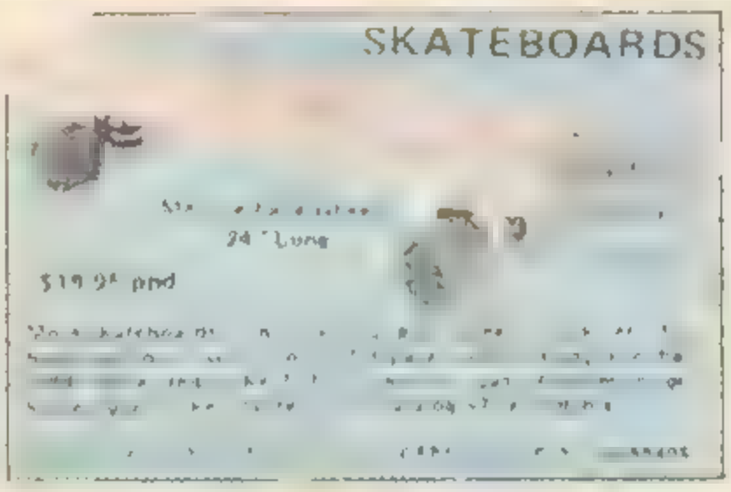

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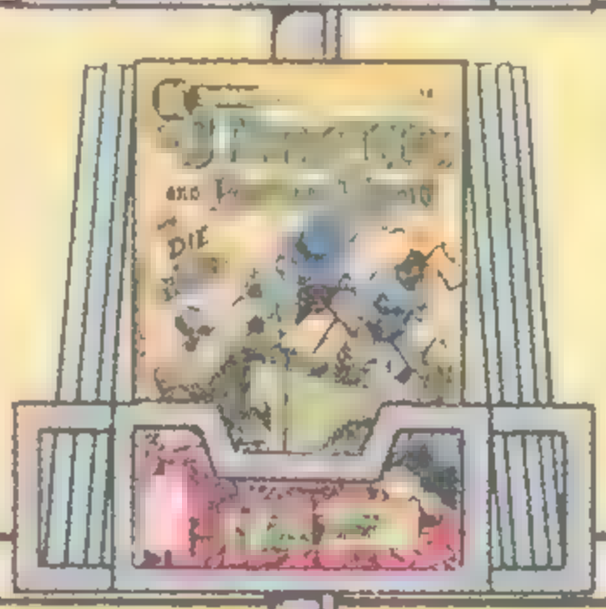

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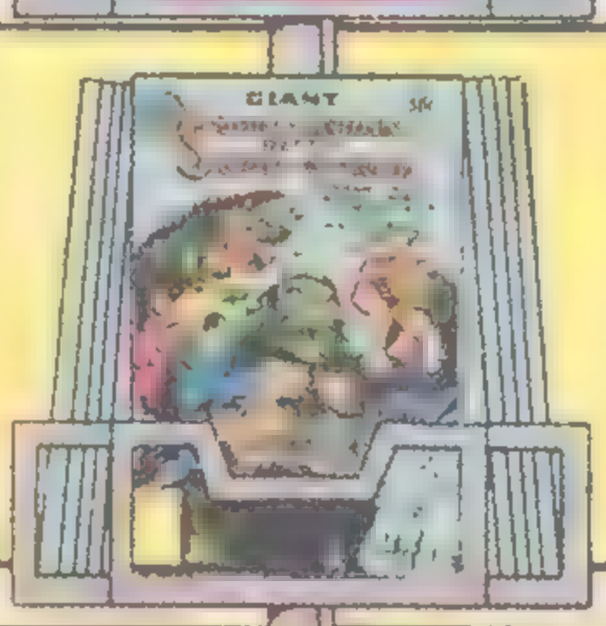

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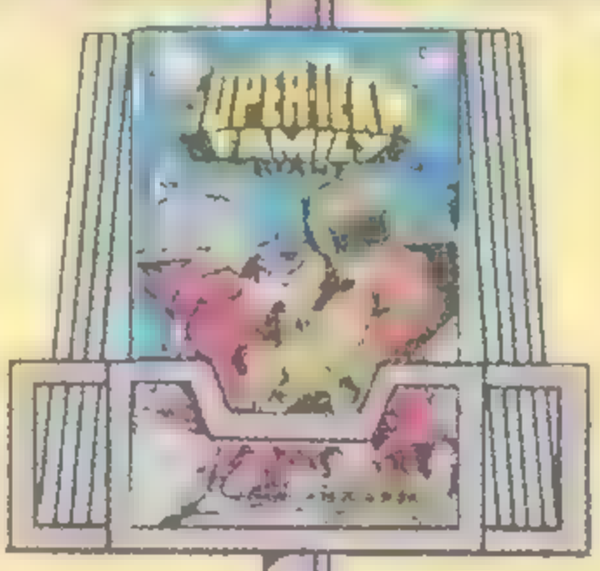

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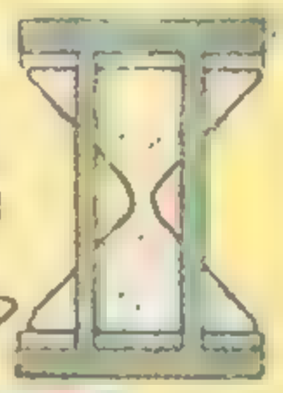

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IMPULSIVELY, THE *BOY OF STEEL* FACES THE PULSATING BARRAGE-- COUNTING ON HIS *INVULNERABILITY* FOR PROTECTION, BUT...

--THE ENERGY-BURSTS ARE PASSING HARMLESSLY *THROUGH* ME!

EVIDENTLY IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY *SUPER-POWERS*-- *BATMAN* IS UNAFFECTED BY THEM TOO!

HOW'S *FLASH* MAKING OUT--?

BY VIBRATING MY MOLECULES AT SUPER-SPEED, THOSE ENERGY-BURSTS WILL PASS RIGHT *THROUGH* ME!

FLASH-- NO-- STOP!

--TOO LATE!

GRRR!

ARROGANCE!

AS THE LETHAL *JETCRAFT* LAZILY CIRCLES OVERHEAD, THE "WORLD'S FINEST" YOUTHS STARE AT A CHARRED PATCH OF GROUND...

THERE'S *NOTHING LEFT* OF *FLASH!*

BUT WHY *HIM* AND NOT *US?*

LUTHOR'S ENERGY-BURSTS WERE *VIBRATING* AT AN ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY--

WHICH MADE THEM *HARMLESS* TO *US*--BUT *FATAL* TO THE FAST-MOVING BODY OF A *VIBRATING FLASH!*

CHOKE! HE WAS THE BEST TEAMMATE ANYONE COULD ASK FOR!

:SNIFF!: IT WAS COLD-BLOODED *MURDER!*

AT *HIS AGE, FLASH* DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST *LUTHOR!*

WAIT, *SUPERBOY!* AT *YOUR* AGE-- NEITHER DO *YOU!*

BUT WHEN THE TEARY-EYED *BOY OF STEEL* CHARGES TOWARD THE SLEEK JETCRAFT.

GREAT KRYPTON! IT'S *EMPTY*-- THERE'S NO SIGN OF *LUTHOR!*

BUT IF HE ISN'T HERE...?

ANYTHING WRONG, *SUPES?*-- WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

THE *TROUBLE* IS MATERIALIZING *BEHIND YOU*-- IN THE PERSON OF--

LUTHOR--!

--WHO'S ABOUT TO *BOOT* YOU OUT OF ACTION!

C'MON, *BAT-BRAT*-- GET UP AND FIGHT ...*IF* YOU HAVE ANY FIGHT LEFT IN YOU!

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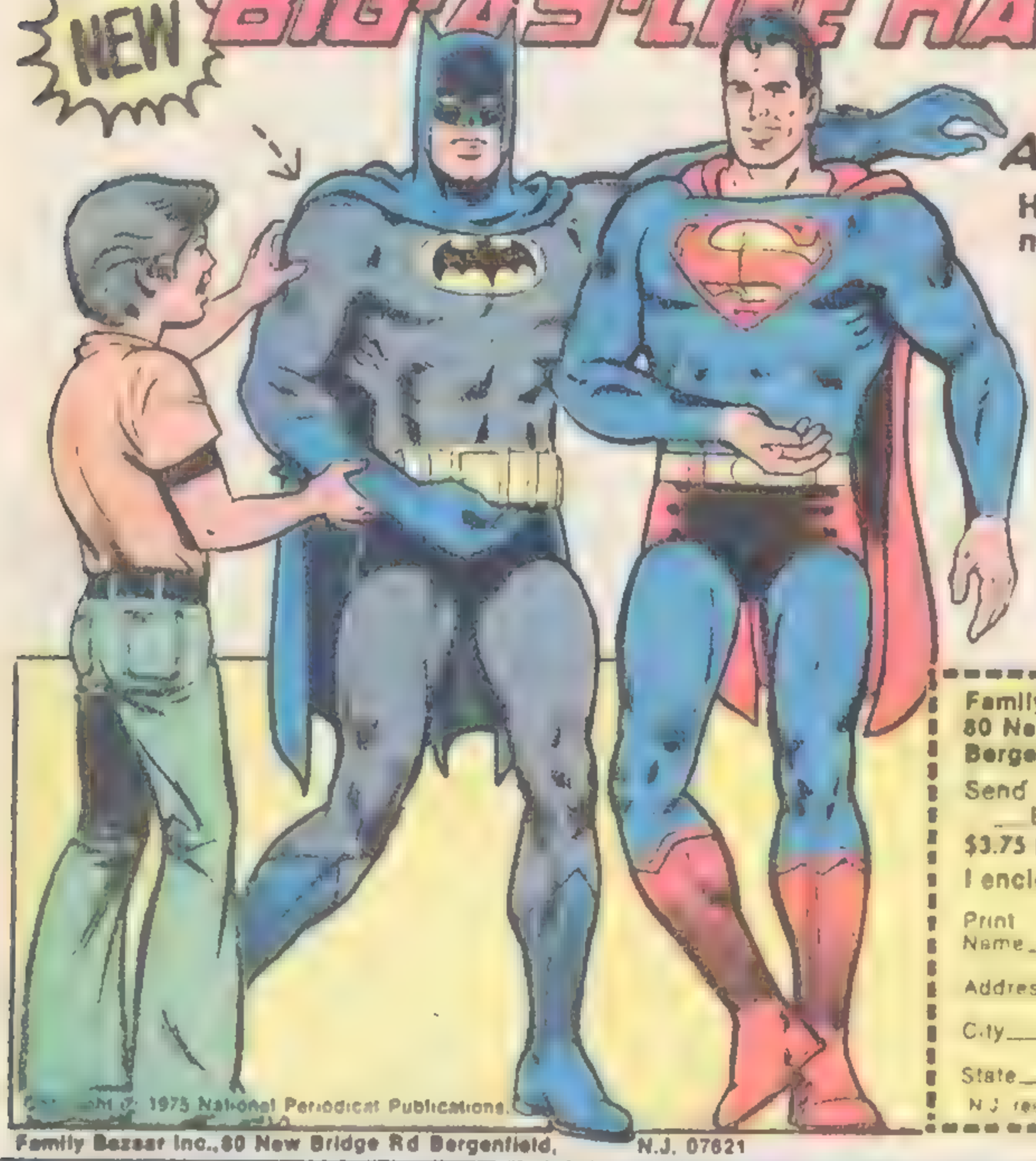

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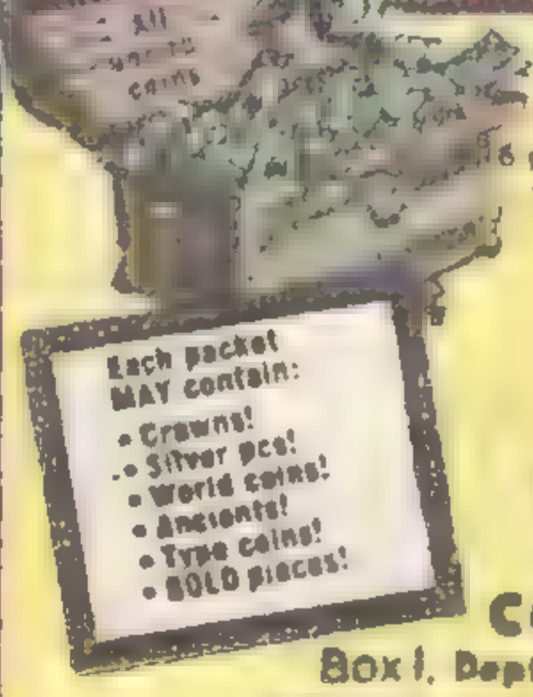

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ABBGHHH

YOU'RE FIGHTING OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, JUNIOR!

CAUGHT YOU--! YOU OKAY?

OKAY ENOUGH TO KEEP FIGHTING THAT HAIRLESS HOTSHOT!

WAIT--LET'S TACKLE HIM *TOGETHER!*

HE MADE A *FOOL* OUT OF ME.. I GET *FIRST* CRACK AT HIM!

BUT BEFORE THE *CAPED CRUSADER* CAN MAKE CONTACT!...

HAHAHA

WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED TO *BATMAN?*

DISINTEGRATED! ACTUALLY HE HAD *"DIED"* WHEN MY BOOT *STRUCK* HIM--

--BUT THERE WAS A *DELAYED EFFECT* OF SEVERAL SECONDS!

SOB MY BEST FRIEND!

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS, LUTHOR-- I SWEAR IT!

MIGHTY STRONG WORDS-- COMING FROM A PUNK KID FROM KRYPTON!

YOU DON'T REALIZE IT YET--

--BUT SEEING YOUR BUDDIES DIE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES--

--WILL HAVE A DEFINITE EFFECT ON YOUR FIGHTING ABILITY!

OOOFF! HE SIDE-STEPPED MY PUNCH... DEFLECTED IT INTO THE GROUND!

SEEING FLASH AND BATMAN LOSE THEIR LIVES BATTLING ME HAS SHAKEN YOUR CONFIDENCE!

KNOWING THAT THEY FAILED, YOU HOLD LITTLE HOPE FOR YOURSELF!

REALLY--? HOW COME, IF I'M SO HOPELESS, YOU'RE PUTTING ON YOUR POWER GLOVE?

OH, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

I'M NOT PUTTING ON MY GLOVE--

--YOU ARE!

IN YOUR CONFUSED STATE, YOU DON'T REALIZE IT'S NOT THE SAME GLOVE!

THIS ONE STILL DRAWS UPON YOUR *SUPER-STRENGTH*--

--AND IS UNDER MY *REMOTE-CONTROL!*

WHAM

WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE SOCKING YOURSELF IN THE JAW?

YOU SEE... I'M COMMANDING THE *GLOVE* TO *PUNCH YOU TO DEATH!*

EVEN *YOU* ARE NOT *IMMUNE* TO YOUR OWN *SUPER-STRENGTH!*

DESPERATELY, THE *TEEN OF STEEL'S* LEFT ARM STRAINS TO HOLD BACK HIS LETHAL RIGHT...

I HATE TO ADMIT IT--

--BUT *LUTHOR'S RIGHT--!*

SEEING MY *PALS DIE* TOOK AWAY WHATEVER *FIGHTING CONFIDENCE* I HAD LEFT!

KNOCK

THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO *BATMAN!*

I CAN STILL SEE THE *LOOK* ON HIS FACE WHEN WE SAW HOW *FLASH* HAD BEEN *WIPED OUT!*

WAITAMINNIT!

THE LOOK ON *BATMAN'S FACE* AFTER *FLASH* DIED-- IT WAS *TELLING* ME SOMETHING ALL 'ALONG--

--BUT I WAS TOO *TEARY-EYED* TO PICK UP ON IT!

OOOFFF!

THAT *COULDN'T* HAVE BEEN *THE REAL BATMAN!*

--WHICH MEANS THE "*FLASH*" WHO DIED WAS A *PHONY,* TOO!

SUDDENLY I SEE THINGS CLEARLY NOW!

THE *REAL BATMAN* AND *FLASH* ARE STILL *ALIVE* SOMEWHERE--

AS THEIR *ADULT SELVES!*

THEN *WHY* DID *LUTHOR* GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO *CONVINCE* ME HE HAD MADE THEM *YOUNGER*--

--UNLESS IT WAS *VITAL* FOR ME TO *BELIEVE* HE HAD THE *POWER* TO DO IT?

MAYBE *LUTHOR'S* TAPPING A *NEW WEAKNESS* OF MINE--

--MY *SUPER-MIND!*

HYPNOTISTS USE THE *POWER OF SUGGESTION* TO MAKE SUBJECTS *BELIEVE* WHAT THEY WANT THEM TO--

--BUT WITH MY *SUPER-POWER OF SUGGESTION* --MY *MIND* CAN MAKE WHATEVER I *BELIEVE* HAS HAPPENED *REALLY HAPPEN!*

"...I DIDN'T *REALLY* SEE *BRUCE WAYNE* AND *BARRY ALLEN* UNDER THOSE MASKS--*LUTHOR* DOESN'T KNOW MY PALS' SECRET IDENTITIES--"

"--BUT MY SUPER-MIND *EXPECTED* TO SEE THEIR FACES... AND THAT'S WHAT I *SAW!*"

SIMILARLY WITH THOSE QUESTIONS ONLY THE *REAL BATMAN* AND *FLASH* COULD ANSWER--!

I KNEW THE CORRECT RESPONSES...AND SOMEHOW *LUTHOR* MADE ME *VOICE* MY *THOUGHTS!*

AS FOR DUPLICATING THE *ORIGINS* WHICH "CREATED" MY SUPER-PALS, I CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT *LUTHOR'S GENIUS CALCULATED* WHAT THEY WERE!

THEN...IF I *STOP BELIEVING* I'VE BEEN *CHANGED* INTO *SUPERBOY*--

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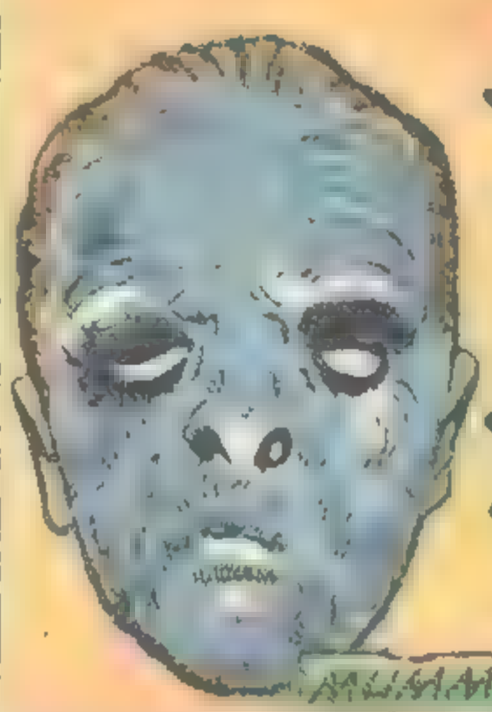

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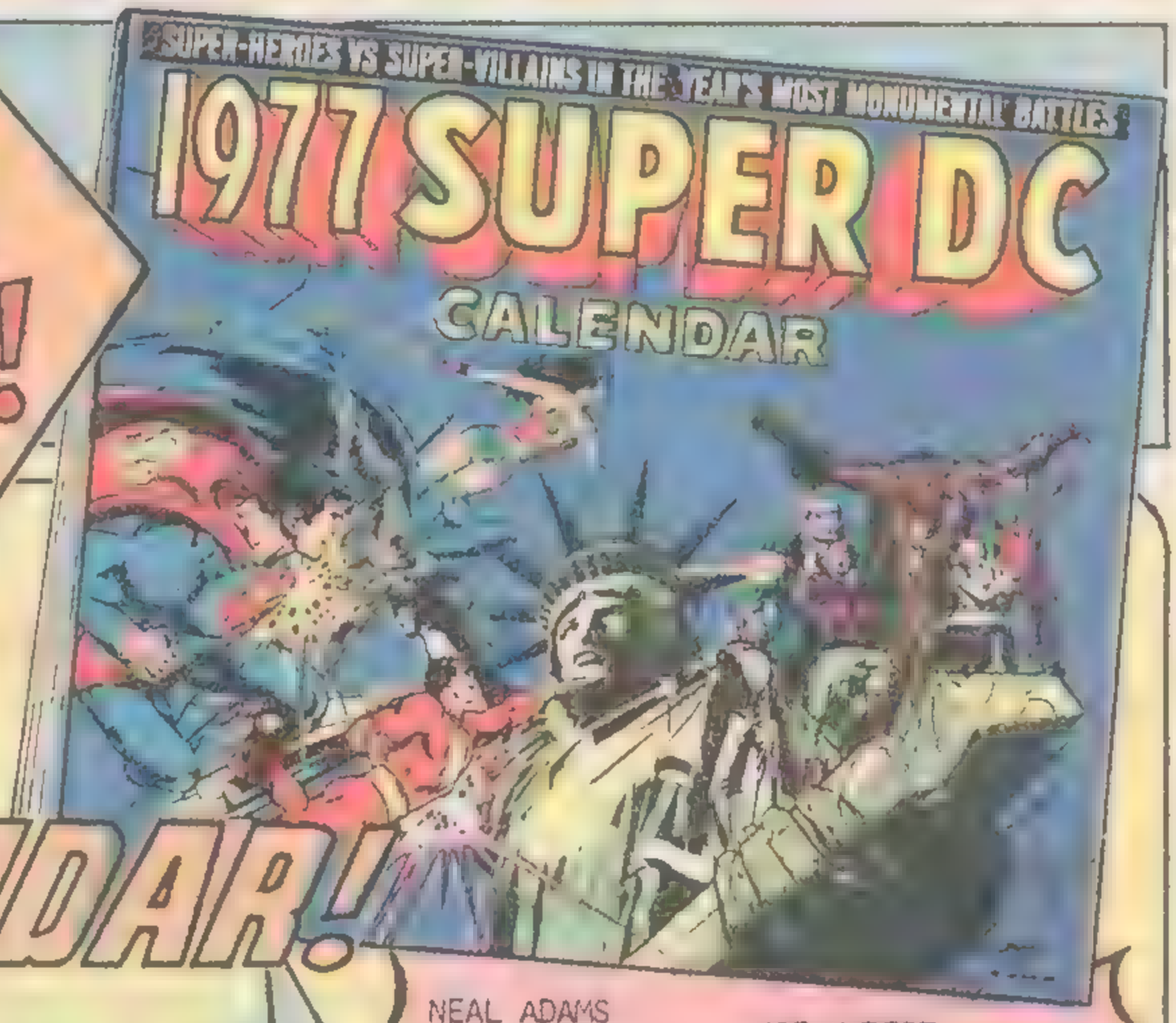

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GREAT STARS! HIS *HAND* GETTING *BIGGER* --*SHATTERING* MY *POWER-GLOVE!*

HE-- IS-- HE IS-- HE IS--

TOO TONGUE-TIED TO SAY IT, *LUTHOR?* I'LL SAY IT FOR YOU--

HE IS SUPERMAN AGAIN!

AND NOW-- I'VE BEEN SAVING THIS *LAST PUNCH* FOR *YOU!*

NEXT DAY, IN THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE'S* SATELLITE HEADQUARTERS, 22,300 MILES ABOVE *EARTH*--

--WHERE THE *REAL BATMAN* AND *FLASH* HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM AN OUTER SPACE MISSION...

BUT, *SUPERMAN*-- YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US WHAT TIPPED YOU OFF THAT THOSE PINT-SIZED VERSIONS OF US WERE *ANDROIDS!*

IT WAS WHEN YOU "*DIED*," *FLASH*--

- I FINALLY REMEMBERED WHAT *BOTHERED* ME ABOUT *BATMAN'S* REACTION--

HE DIDN'T SHOW *ANY EMOTION... SHED ANY TEARS!*

NONE OF US COULD WATCH ONE OF OUR COMRADES DIE WITHOUT SHOWING *SOME* FEELING...

LUTHOR MAY BE *OLDER* AND *WISER*, BUT HE'S STILL MAKING MISTAKES!

AND AS LONG AS HE DOES--

--HE'LL GO DOWN TO DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF *SUPERMAN*--

..NO MATTER WHAT AGE I AM!

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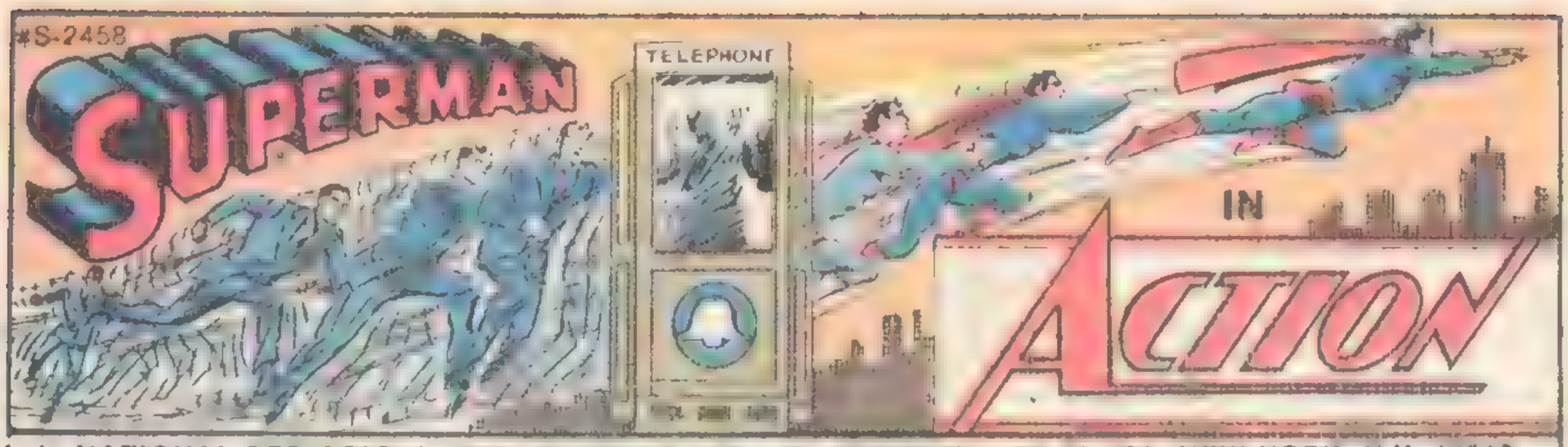

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Dear Creators of Dynamite Comics:

- Comments on **Action** #462: not bad, not bad at all. What's best is something that's been added to the whole already-superior DC lineup lately: issue-to-issue continuity. This story hasn't been billed as **Supie's** greatest adventure, nor does it carry a box saying it takes place after the other **Superman** comics now appearing, nor does it even make such a big deal out of being a four-parter, but it just happens to ramble on from issue to issue as does **Superman's** life.

My compliments on the cover: exciting, not too misleading, dialogueless, and beautifully drawn. Inside, the plot raced along fast, fun and fascinating. The angle of **Karb-Brak** out-and-out pleading with **Superman** to leave Earth and let him live, and **Supie** having to think it over, showed surprising depth of character as compared with Cary Bates' usually more plot-oriented stories. The last panel was really surprising and I'm looking forward to next issue's bicentennial fun-fest

As for "A Job for Superdog," it lacked the humor these short-shorts need to justify themselves.

Well, later. DC REIGNS SUPREME!!!

Richy Forman, Warminster, Pa.

* * * * *

Dear Julie:

I'm sure you've noted my dissatisfaction with Elliot Maggin as a **Superman** scripter on various occasions so I imagine you expect Cary Bates (a buddy of Maggin's) will get the same reaction, right? 'Fraid not, gang. Cary is an excellent scripter, and the only reservation I have about his plots is that they could be rationalized a bit better.

Just saying **Karb-Brak** is allergic to **Superman** is weak. But if **Karb** had been born with an affliction that caused him to over-absorb power from the superbeings around him, it would not only come across as logical, but it would explain the power discharge in #462 that altered **Metropolis'** molecular structure. **K-B's** body was trying to compensate for its excess energy by siphoning it off into the surrounding environment. It would still be necessary for **K-B** to get rid of **Superman**—and while we're on that subject, the idea of sending him back to 1776 was a stroke of brilliance. I was wondering when the world's greatest super-hero was going to do something bicentennially oriented.

While my dog, **Cinder,** really loved the **Krypto** solo-story, "This Is a Job for Superdog," I didn't think it accomplished anything. Sure, it was kind of cute, but that's not exactly what I buy a comic mag for.

"Doghouse of Solitude," indeed!

Kevin L. Callahan, Brea, Calif.

(Okay, Kevin—That's two votes against the dog-tale. Now let's hear from Cinder and others.—*E.N.B.*)

* * * * *

Now, this shows a little class. After all those rummies you've been throwing at us for years, you've finally decided to let a **real** star get a shot at the back-up in **Action.** "This Is a Job for Superdog" was the best story ENB has ever written, which is understandable with **Krypto** as the title character.

Krypto (my hero) deserves a solo-series, at least, but should be given a magazine of his own. With schlemiels like **Green Lantern** and **Kobra** getting their own books, the least you can do is give a proven name like **Krypto** a chance.

As it is, E. Nelson Bridwell will receive the AMA's (American Mongrel Association's) 1976 Fire Hydrant award for his story. All he has to do is hop a Greyhound bus to Chihuahua, Mexico. That's about the most dog-eared joke I can think of to close with. Woof.

Cinder, Dog of Callahan, Brea, Calif

I have decided to forgive you for insulting my honor and please my multitude of fans by commenting on the **Krypto** story in **Action**

It was short, but sweet.

Let's face it—**Krypto** is probably DC's finest character, a real champion. He's not like that neurotic beagle who's too stupid to sleep in his doghouse. In fact, **Krypto** and I share a lot of characteristics: Courage, Brains, Wit

I am sending you two photos of myself. I think you should write a story where I help **Krypto**—the pictures will give your artists some idea of how I look. Just ask my fans in your reading audience—I think they'd like to see the world's two greatest canines together. How about it?

Boliver J. Beagle, Oak Hill, W. Va.

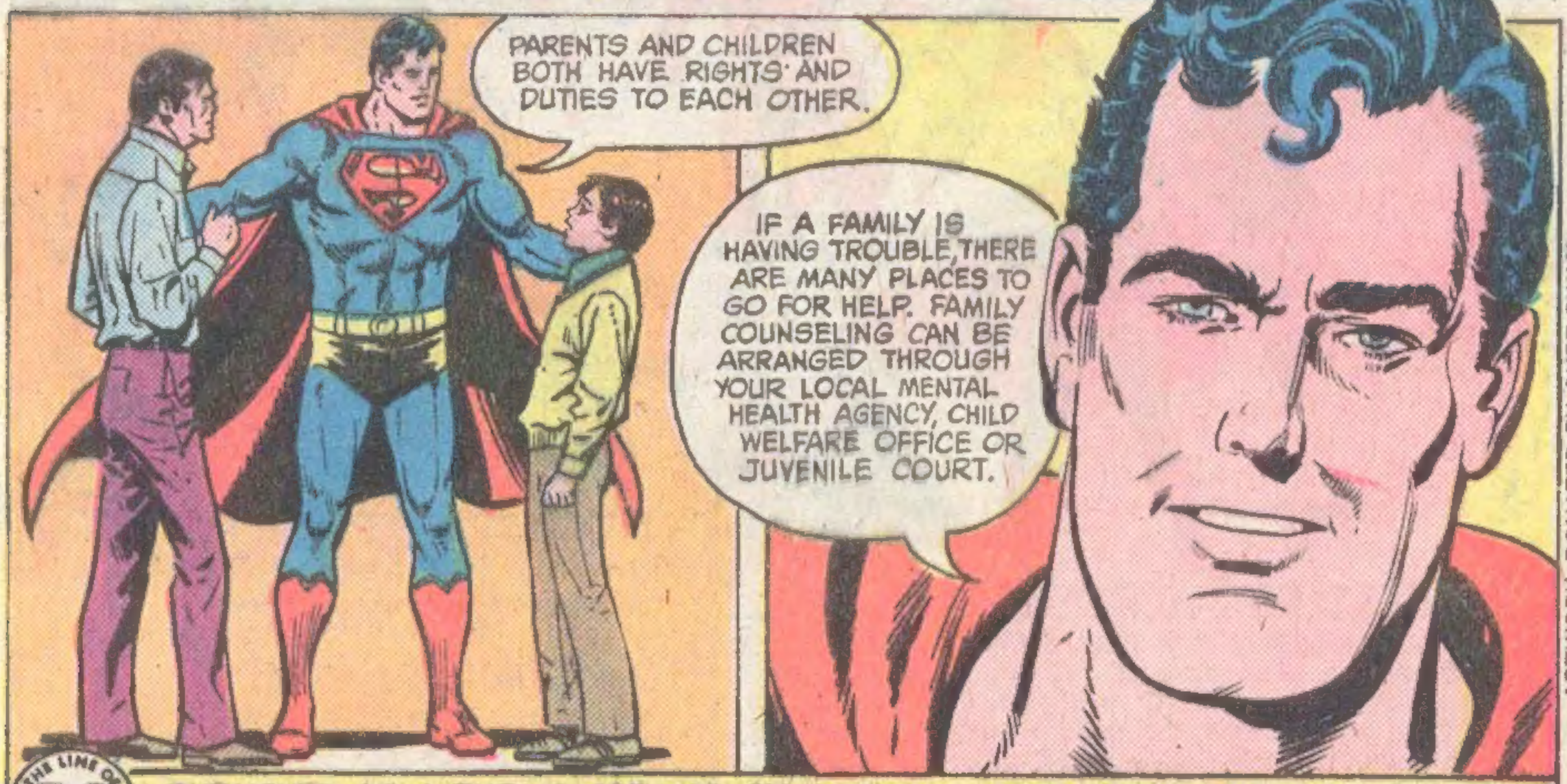
I'm not going to comment on the first part of **Action** #462. The **Krypto** story is the object of my comment.

Curt Swan and Al Milgrom's artwork was outstanding In his last appearance in **Superman, Krypto** didn't have thought balloons. Here they were used extremely well. I'm glad to see **Krypto** knows he's a dog, from his thoughts on page 4, panel 6, and page 5, panel 5. I don't like dog food or dog food commercials either. The last time my master, Paul, fed me dog food, I threw up.

Chula, who dictated to Paul Ortega, Bryan, Tex.

(So the dogs belonging to Kevin Callahan, Clint Thomas and Paul Ortega have outvoted the human critics three-to-two. Thanks. I never knew going to the dogs could be so much fun!—*E. Nelson Bridwell)*

JUSTICE FOR ALL INCLUDES CHILDREN, 8



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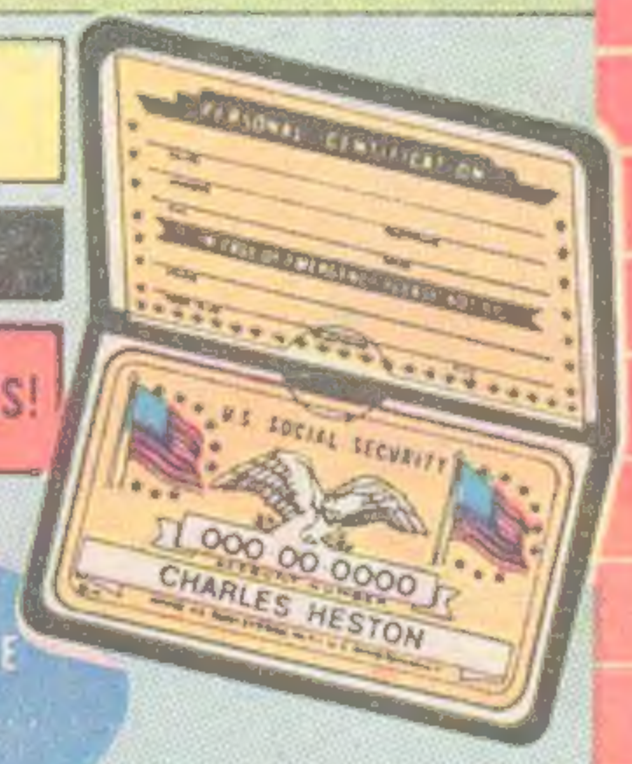

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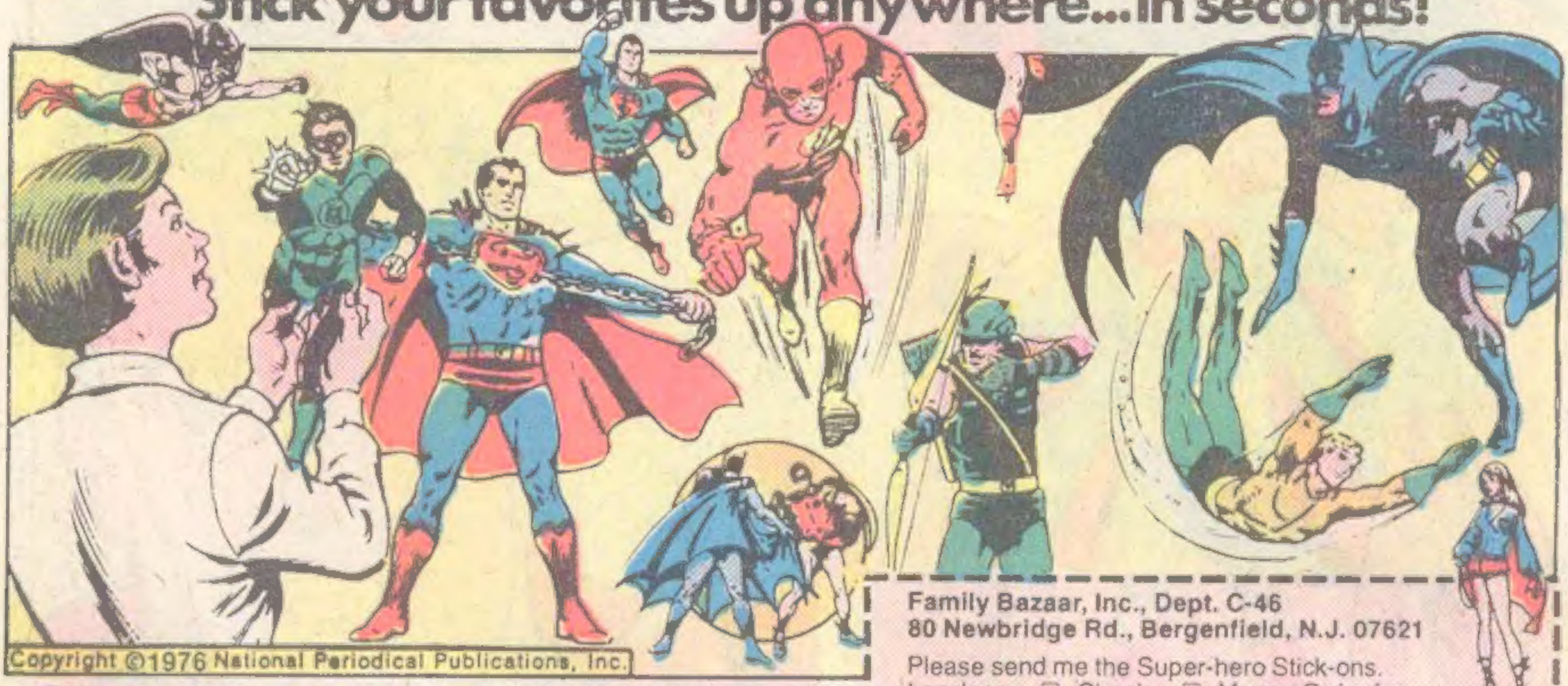

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